

## SAFETY BULLETIN - USAG ANSBACH

### **Lightning Strikes!**

Supervisors at ALL levels should brief Soldiers, **Summer Hires** and Employees on how to react in situations when thunderstorms are approaching.

What is lightning? A big charge of electricity that can reach from clouds to the ground or to other clouds. It can start fires and it is strong enough to hurt or kill people.

What does it feel like to be hit by lightning? It feels like when your foot falls asleep, but much stronger. The pain after the strike lasts about an hour, hands and arms feel like they were stuck into an electrical wall socket. Lightning knocks many people to the ground, some are burned and some people are unconscious after they are struck.

Where can lightning strike? Lightning can strike almost everywhere. Many people are struck before and after the rain falls, it can strike as far as 10 miles away from a storm, or anywhere in a big circle around the rain. If you feel your hair stand on end, lightning is about to strike you. If you can count 20 seconds or less between the lightning and the thunder, the lightning is about 4 miles away and the storm close enough to hurt you.

What kinds of shelters are there? If you are outside and lightning strikes nearby, you should go into a house, a building or a car. If you are in a car, be sure that the windows are rolled up.

Do not stand near tall isolated trees or tall trees in a group. If lightning is close, and no shelter is available, people should be on their knees, bent forward, with hands resting on knees.

During Change of Command Ceremonies and outside activities, it must be ensured that all equipment to be used is approved and safe for wet location use.

**Make Safety Part of Your Daily Routine**